

DELEGATE

RICHARD LANIGAN
PRESIDENT



MARY MAHONEY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

LEAVE NO POWER ON THE TABLE!

Organizer and author Jane McAlevey took center stage Wednesday to share her decades of experience as a union organizer and activist, telling delegates that despite the challenges “every single person in this room, and every worker I’ve ever met, is capable of organizing.

“For our side to win, though, we have to overcome the number one strategy the one percent uses: division,” McAlevey said. “They wake up in the morning and stoke division every day. They operate in the workplace, in our communities and in the election booth, so we have to, as well.”



The key to organizing success, said McAlevey, is to leave no power on the table. “The job of an organizer is to teach every rank-and-file worker everything we know,” she advised. All organizers should prioritize identifying leaders, creating structure tests and wall charts, all with the goal of high participation.

“High participation is high power,” she said. “Every single union local that is apathetic, or has a hard time engaging people, this method is for you. It’s a serious way to build a high-engagement union,” McAlevey continued. That member engagement helps build strength at the local union. “For me, negotiations are our best tool to build our local unions. Every contract fight is an excuse to build a powerful union.

“You can do it, OPEIU,” McAlevey encouraged. “You’re doing it!”

DEIJ CAUCUS ENVISIONS RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

Building on Sunday’s educational conference, OPEIU’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Caucus was held Wednesday afternoon, where members connected and envisioned how OPEIU can continue to show up for racial and social justice. Newer members and seasoned activists came together to build community with fellow members who share the belief that racial justice is an integral pillar to building a strong labor movement.

The caucus first met at the 2022 Educational Conference in September.



Cassedy Signs Copies of Her Book, *Working 9 to 5*



Safe Staffing Tops OPEIU Nurses Council’s Legislative Agenda

Members of the OPEIU Nurses Council met Wednesday afternoon to discuss key issues affecting OPEIU’s health care professionals. Safe nurse-to-patient staffing ratios tops the ONC’s legislative agenda for the coming year.



DIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENTS ELECTED

Local 42 President Lisa Blake was reelected to the International Executive Board as an OPEIU vice president for diversity.

Local 174 President and Business Manager Lupe Valles was also elected to join the board as an OPEIU vice president for diversity.

Region VII Elects Neu, Carlisle as Vice Presidents

Region VII delegates on Wednesday elected MAGE/OPEIU Local 2002 Labor Representative/Counsel Peter Neu and Local 40 President Dina Carlisle, RN, as International vice presidents.

Guide Dogs of America Transforms Lives

Russell Gittlen, president of Guide Dogs of America, told delegates about the organization’s life-changing work placing facility dogs with professionals in courtrooms, schools and hospitals, and with individuals – including our nation’s veterans.

“We owe it to our veterans, when they come back to the United States, to take care of them.”

Kassandra Hernandez, a graduate of the program, also shared the difference her dog, Tag, has made in her day-to-day life.

“I feel confident,” Hernandez said. “I feel like I can navigate the world with a lot of ease. I feel safer. I feel more secure. He’s the biggest blessing I could ever ask for. I couldn’t have any of this ... without all the work that goes into these dogs. I can’t stress enough how grateful I am and how blessed I am to have him. I don’t know what I’d ever do without him. He is my eyes.”

Guide Dogs of America, which recently affiliated with Local 30 in San Diego, transforms lives through partnerships with service dogs. Guide Dogs breeds, raises and trains guide dogs for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and service dogs for veterans and children with autism. “Thank you to Local 30 and all you do,” Gittlen said. “Every day your members work hard with these dogs.”



TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Among today's highlights, we will hear the inspiring story of striking Writers Guild of America members who are standing up and demanding fair pay and respect for the work they do. Joining us will be Shou Zhang, a writer and WGA strike captain, to tell us more about this historic strike campaign.

The convention will also pay tribute to four vice presidents for their many years of service on the International Executive Board.



CHRISTINE PAGE
DIVERSITY



GREG BLACKMAN
REGION III



MICHAEL BODINSKY
REGION II



AARON SANDERS
REGION VII

Fun Fact!

Everybody associates the famed cheesesteak with Philadelphia. You may have even had one since you've been in town. But don't forget about the pretzel!



Pretzels are a big deal in Philadelphia. In fact, Philadelphians consume 12 times more pretzels than the average American.

The nation's first large-scale pretzel manufacturer was started in Philadelphia and there even used to be a pretzel museum in the city.

Tonight's Event

Tonight, join us at 6 p.m. for our Farewell Dinner in the Liberty Ballroom. Remember to bring your ticket!

